

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-24 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 3, 10, 14, and 24 are amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action objects to claims 10 and 14. Applicant has amended claims 10 and 14 in light of the Examiner's objections. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action rejects claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts that the specification fails to describe a cache memory. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

A cache memory is known as a buffer storage that is smaller than the main storage. Cache memory temporarily stores instructions and data that will likely be used next by the CPU. In the present application, search memory 17 includes data that will be used by the CPU next, i.e., IP Flow Table 17a. The search memory 17 is claimed using the generic term "cache memory". As such, the claimed cache memory is disclosed by the present specification.

It should be noted that, according to the claims, the next-hop address is stored in the search table, i.e., stored in a cache memory. Further, as used in the claims, it is evident that the flow table is stored in a cache memory. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 10, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,314,912 (“Oguchi”). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

To anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the cited reference must disclose every element of the claim, as arranged in the claim, and in sufficient detail to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the anticipated subject matter. See, PPG Industries, Inc. v. Guardian Industries Corp., 75 F.3d 1558, 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1996); C.R. Bard, Inc. v. M3 Sys., Inc., 157 F.3d 1340, 1349 (Fed. Cir. 1998). A reference that does not expressly disclose all of the elements of a claimed invention cannot anticipate unless all of the undisclosed elements are inherently present in the reference. See, Continental Can Co. USA v. Monsanto Co., 942 F.2d 1264, 1268 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Among the limitations of independent claim 10 not present in the cited reference is a third memory for storing a list of retrieved next-hop address entries which are linked from a leading one to a bottom one. Additionally, Oguchi fails to disclose a second cache memory for storing a copy of a next-hop address entry that

has been retrieved from the first memory to retrievably store a plurality of retrieved next-hop address entities.

Applicant explicitly recites that the next-hop addresses are linked from a leading one to a bottom one in a third memory. This feature is not disclosed with respect to the NH cache 73 in Oguchi.

In Oguchi, NH cache 73 stores an ATM address for each IP address of a destination host. One entry is added to the NH host 73 when information a new data-link-layer path to a destination host is obtained on the NHRP protocol. However, each of these entries is not linked from a leading one to a bottom one as explicitly recited in Applicant's claim.

Further, in Oguchi, when a hit occurs in routing table 53, the IP address of the destination host is stored for the destination network address in the route cache 43. Thus, it is not the entire entry from routing table 53 that is stored in routing cache 43 as explicitly recited in Applicant's claim but only the destination host address. As such, there is not a copy of the next-hop address stored as explicitly recited in Applicant's claim.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 16, 17 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oguchi in view of JP 403225412A ("Naka"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

As discussed above, Oguchi fails to disclose that the cache memory stores the next-hop address from the routing table. Instead, only a portion of the actual next-hop address is stored. Naka was not included to cure this deficiency in Oguchi but to show additional limitations which, even if it were to show, do not cure the deficiencies in Oguchi discussed above. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

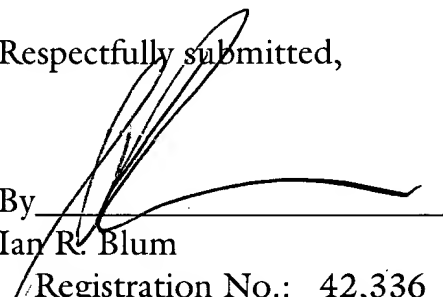
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If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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